

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 087285
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00
DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-02 /081 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:MCLISSFELT:LB
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
-----126714 051743Z /50

O R 051635Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

UNCLAS STATE 087285

USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 087285

SUBJECT: NEW PROGRAM FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN - PRESS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY JOHN LAWTON THAT
APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST APRIL 5.

QUOTE: TURKISH PREMIER PRAISES NEW U.S. POLICY IN REGION.
ISTANBUL - PRAISING PRESIDENT CARTER'S "NEW APPROACH" TO
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES, TURKISH PREMIER BULENT ECEVIT
SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT COULD FACILITATE A CYPRUS PEACE
SETTLEMENT AND IMPROVED TURKISH-AMERICAN TIES.

BUT HE INDICATED THAT LIFTING THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY AND GRANTING OF DOLS 225 MILLION INTERIM MILITARY AID WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO GET AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING INSTALLATIONS WORKING AGAIN.

SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN ANKARA, ECEVIT DESCRIBED CARTER'S DECISION TO ASK CONGRESS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO IMPOSED ON TURKEY IN 1974 AS "A CLEAR STEP TOWARD POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS."

"THE EMBARGO IS AN ELEMENT OF PRESSURE AGAINST TURKEY, OBSTRUCTING CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND INCREASING THE INTRANSI-

GENCE OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS," ECEVIT SAID.

IN CYPRUS, WHERE TURKISH TROOPS HAVE HELD ONE-THIRD OF THE ISLAND SINCE THE INVASION, FOREIGN MINISTER NICOS ROLANDIS HANDED A WRITTEN PROTEST AGAINST CARTER'S PROPOSALS TO U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EDWARD DILLERY, AND POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARDSMEN SURROUNDED U.S. FACILITIES TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 087285

IN ATHENS, U.S. AMBASSADOR ROBERT MCCLOSKEY WAS SUMMONED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TOLD THAT U.S. ARMS SALES TO TURKEY WOULD INFLAME ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS IN GREECE. POLICE GUARDED THE U.S. AND TURKISH EMBASSIES AND AMERICAN BANKS.

CONGRESS, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND GREECE HAD HOPED THE BAN ON ARMS SALES AND MILITARY AID TO ANKARA WOULD FORCE A TURKISH WITHDRAWAL. THE TURKS INVADED CYPRUS FOLLOWING AN ATHENS-BACKED ATTEMPT TO UNITE THE ISLAND WITH GREECE.

INSTEAD, THE TURKS HAVE DUG IN THEIR HEELS, REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT AND SETTING UP A TURKISH-CYPRIOT FEDERATED STATE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

THE EMBARGO HAS SOURED RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES, WITH THE TURKS CLOSING AMERICAN BASES THAT MONITORED MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN THE NEIGHBORING SOVIET UNION, AND WEAKENED THE SOUTHEAST FLANK OF NATO.

MATTERS CAME TO A HEAD LAST MONTH WHEN ECEVIT, WHO CAME TO POWER IN JANUARY AT THE HEAD OF A CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT, ACCUSED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION OF VACILLATING OVER A DOLS 1 BILLION MILITARY AID PACT WITH TURKEY. HE SAID HE WOULD DELAY PROMISED CYPRUS PEACE PROPOSALS AND WARNED THAT TURKEY MIGHT REVIEW ITS NATO TIES.

IN A SUDDEN VISIT TO ANKARA MARCH 29, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER SAW ECEVIT. THEY AGREED TO SCRAP THE AID PACKAGE, UNDER WHICH TURKEY WAS TO HAVE REOPENED U.S. BASES, AND NEGOTIATE A NEW ACCORD.

MEANWHILE, CARTER IS TO ASK CONGRESS TO APPROVE DOLS 225 MILLION IN INTERIM MILITARY AID IN ADDITION TO LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 087285

IN EXCHANGE, REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SAID, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HOPED TO REGAIN ACCESS TO SOME OF THE U.S. BASES IN TURKEY.

COMMENTING ON THESE REPORTS, ECEVIT SAID: "THE STATUS OF THE BASES WILL BE DETERMINED BY A NEW ACCORD, NEGOTIATION ON WHICH WILL BEGIN SHORTLY."

ECEVIT HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THE TURKS WILL NEED MORE THAN THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED DOLS 1 BILLION TO MAINTAIN THEIR DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO NATO DUE TO THE DECLINING VALUE OF THE U.S. CURRENCY AND INCREASED WEAPONS COST. END QUOTE.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE BY ROBERT G. KAISER THAT APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST APRIL 5.

QUOTE: MOVE TO LIFT TURK ARMS CURB IS STIRRING UP OLD HILL FIGHT. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSED LIFTING OF THE U.S. ARMS "EMBARGO" AGAINST TURKEY THREATENS TO REVIVE A FOREIGN POLICY CONFRONTATION WITH CONGRESS THAT FIRST AROSE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

TWO SENATORS AND TWO HOUSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO HAVE SCHEDULED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THIS MORNING, WHERE THEY WILL BLAST THE ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS LATEST PLAN.

THEY WILL ALSO RELEASE A COMPILATION OF PAST STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE OPPOSING RENEWED ARMS SALES TO TURKEY WITHOUT CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS.

ONE MEMBER OF THIS GROUP SAID YESTERDAY THAT OPPONENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 087285

LIFTING THE EMBARGO WILL DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO BLOCK THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW POLICY--WHICH, KEY OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE, DEPARTS FROM PAST APPROACHES TO THE ISSUE.

KEY CONGRESSIONAL AIDES WHO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE DIS-
PUTES OVER ARMS TO TURKEY PREDICTED YESTERDAY THAT AN ALL-
OUT FIGHT BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS OPPONENTS IN
CONGRESS COULD BE "VERY BLOODY."

THOSE OPPONENTS WILL INCLUDE REPS. JOHN BRADEMAS (D-IND.),
THE HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP, AND BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL (D-N.Y.),
A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, AND SENS. PAUL SARBANES (DMD.) OF THE SENATE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THOMAS F. EAGLETON (D-MO.)
--THE FOUR WHO ARE TO HOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY.

THEY HAVE ARGUED FOR SEVERAL YEARS THAT TURKEY'S ACCESS TO
U.S. ARMS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE STRICTLY LIMITED UNTIL THE
TURKS MAKE CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS, WHERE THEIR FORCES PRE-

SENTLY OCCUPY 40 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY.

THEY NOTE THAT THE TURKS VIOLATED AMERICAN LEGISLATION PRO-
HIBITING THE RECIPIENTS OF U.S. ARMS FROM USING THEM FOR
OFFENSIVE PURPOSES WHEN THEY INVADED CYPRUS IN 1974, AND
THAT NO ADMINISTRATION HAS THE RIGHT TO IGNORE THAT LEGAL
FACT.

AS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, CARTER FULLY ENDORSED THAT
VIEW. "IN MY JUDGMENT," CARTER SAID IN DETROIT ON MAY 12,
1976, "WE WOULD BE NEGLIGENT OF THE MORAL ISSUES AND
COURTING LONGER-RANGE DISASTER IF WE FAIL TO COUPLE THE IM-
PROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WITH INCREASED FAIR
PROGRESS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE..."

MONDALE AND VANCE MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS BEFORE TAKING
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 087285

OFFICE LAST YEAR. MONDALE SAID DURING THE CAMPAIGN, "IN A
CARTER ADMINISTRATION IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR BRADE-
MAS AND EAGLETON TO DEVELOP A PROTEST IN THE CONGRESS..."

THE ISSUE WAS ONE THAT ANIMATED MANY GREEK-AMERICAN VOTERS,
AND CARTER'S POSITION APPARENTLY WON HIM WIDE SUPPORT IN
THAT GROUP.

THE DECISION TO LIFT THE "EMBARGO" CONGRESS IMPOSED IN 1975
(IN FACT IT HAS BEEN A PARTIAL EMBARGO, PERMITTING SOME
CONTINUED MILITARY SALES), ACCORDING TO A SENIOR ADMINIS-
TRATION OFFICIAL, WAS MADE BECAUSE THE OLD APPROACH OF
TRYING TO PRESSURE THE TURKS DIDN'T WORK.

THE TURKS HAVE BEEN "ABOUT AS UNRESPONSIVE AS A COLD FISH"
TO THE PRESSURE OF THE PARTIAL EMBARGO, THIS OFFICIAL AR-
GUED. MOREOVER, TURKISH PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT HAS
RECENTLY THREATENED TO BOYCOTT NATO AND PERMANENTLY CUT

OFF AMERICAN ACCESS TO THE U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS THAT
TURKEY CLOSED IN 1975 IN RETALIATION FOR THE EMBARGO.

THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT REMOVING THE EMBARGO THAT
CONGRESS IMPOSED WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL IM-
PACT AND ALLOW ECEVIT TO OFFER A CYPRUS COMPROMISE WITHOUT
APPEARING TO BE CAVING IN TO THE EMBARGO.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER FLEW TO
TURKEY LATE LAST MONTH TO TELL ECEVIT OF THE CARTER ADMIN-
ISTRATION'S CHANGE IN POLICY AND PRESUMABLY TO URGE HIM TO
BE FORTHCOMING ON CYPRUS IN RETURN.

THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RELIABLY SAID TO FEEL THAT THE RE-
LATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY WAS DETERIORATING DANGEROUSLY, THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 087285

TURKEY'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WAS BECOMING STEADILY
WEAKER, AND THAT PROLONGATION OF THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE NATO'S SOUTH-
EASTERN FLANK.

SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY THAT ECEVIT
WILL HAVE TO OFFER A NEW AND MORE MODERATE POSITION ON
CYPRUS BEFORE CONGRESS VOTES ON THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S
NEW PLAN IF THAT PLAN IS TO HAVE MUCH HOPE OR SUCCESS.

THE SAME SOURCES SAID TURKEY DOES HAVE MORE SYMPATHY IN
CONGRESS NOW THAN IT DID A YEAR OR TWO AGO, AS EVIDENCED
BY A RECENT LETTER SIGNED BY REP. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI (D-
WIS.), CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, AND 18 OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THAT PANEL. HOW
EXTENSIVE THAT SYMPATHY IS REMAINS TO BE TESTED.

THE OPPONENTS OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO HAD AN ANGRY MEETING
AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH CARTER, VANCE AND MONDALE WHERE
THEY SAID THEY WOULD FIGHT AGAINST THE NEW POLICY.

ONE OF THE OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF THE PLAN SAID YESTERDAY
THAT THERE HAS BEEN "EXTRAORDINARY SLOPPINESS AND INCOM-
PETENCE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH," RESULTING IN "ALL THE
WRONG SIGNALS" BEING SENT TO TURKEY, AND ENCOURAGING
ECEVIT'S STUBBORNNESS. END QUOTE. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMS, PEACE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), EMBARGOES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE087285
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SE:MCLISSFELT:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0276
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804109/baaafcif.tel
Line Count: 265
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d835bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2829561
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW PROGRAM FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN - PRESS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SOPN, TU, CY, GR
To: ANKARA INFO BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d835bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014